



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

**To:** Indiana State Board of Education  
**From:** Office of School Accountability  
**Date:** May 23, 2023  
**Subject:** Accreditation Petition for Darul Uloom Zakariya

---

This memorandum provides a summary of the information provided by the school in its petition for performance-based accreditation and the final recommendation from the Indiana Department of Education (Department) regarding the accreditation of Darul Uloom Zakariya (DUZ Academy).

## **Background & Demographic Information**

Darul Uloom Zakariya will be a new virtual school for the 2023-2024 school year. Their office is located in Fort Wayne, Indiana. They will serve students in grade 3 through grade 5.

DUZ Academy intends to serve the young children of the Burmese Muslim community settled in Fort Wayne, Indiana for their secular and religious education needs. DUZ Academy anticipates that the growing Burmese population in Fort Wayne, Indiana will eventually lead to expanding the virtual school, in-person and online within the next five years.

The school is affiliated with Darul Uloom Al Madania, a private Islamic boarding school in Buffalo, New York.

DUZ Academy's objectives include teaching students, who are 90% English language learners, essential Islamic knowledge and practices, as well as focus on core academic subjects. DUZ Academy is committed to providing a rigorous, challenging, and stimulating curriculum that encourages critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity.

DUZ Academy projects that it will enroll roughly 25 students in grade 3 through grade 5 during the 2023-2024 school year. Over the next five years, the school intends to increase overall enrollment to 50 students through grade 8. They plan to also add grades 9-12 with the expansion of their program.

## **Operations**

**Facilities:** DUZ Academy's office will operate at 6332 South Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, Indiana.

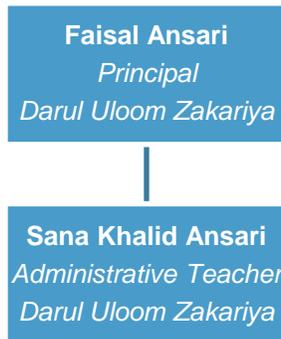
**Tuition:** Annual tuition and fees for DUZ Academy total \$6,850. These costs include annual tuition, registration fee and assessment/tech fee. DUZ Academy indicated that it intends to participate in the Indiana Choice Scholarship program.

**Staffing:** The administrative structure for DUZ Academy is as follows:



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education



Faisal Ansari is the founder and principal of Darul Uloom Zakariya. Mr. Ansari has 13 years of experience being the principal at Darul Uloom Al-Madania. He has also been a Mufti/teacher since 2008.

Sana Khalid Ansari has been a teacher at Darul Uloom Al-Madania for 18 years. In addition to teaching, she is currently studying to be a paralegal and hopes to become a lawyer one day.

DUZ Academy intends to hire three grade level teachers holding valid Indiana teaching certifications. As of the time of application, DUZ Academy did not have any teachers on staff.

## **Academic Programming**

Students will be instructed in the areas of English/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, Quran memorization, Arabic and physical education/health. They may also choose to participate in other electives or clubs.

DUZ plans to use McGraw-Hill ConnectED, a digital educational platform for their online curriculum for K-12. In addition to the digital curriculum that includes online textbooks, workbooks, and other instructional material that are specifically designed to align with the state of Indiana Academic Standards, McGraw-Hill provides various online resources such as online assessments, adaptive learning tools, interactive activities, and customizable learning materials with a wide range of digital tools to enhance the learning experience for each grade. McGraw-Hill curriculum is designed to support the teachers in delivering instructions that will meet the state expectation for student learning.

## **Department Recommendation**

While Darul Uloom Zakariya has not previously operated a virtual school, their accreditation application reflects the research thought, and work needed to become a school. In addition, Darul Uloom Zakariya has plans for steady reasonable growth for the future. Based on the submitted petition and accompanying materials, Darul Uloom Zakariya has a fair understanding of the requirements of being an Indiana performance-based accredited school. Therefore, the Department recommends granting Darul Uloom Zakariya provisional state performance-based accreditation as a nonpublic school in Indiana.